

Faith and Works

James 2: 14-26

Introduction

The Mormon Encounters

James 2 is used by Mormons to highlight works as an equal necessity to salvation.

When witnessing to people it is amazing how much we rely on works to measure salvation.

Some practically use faith as an excuse to be lazy in ministry.

Some work so much that they frustrate their faith.

James addresses here faith and works and explains how they work together.

James 1:1-12 He speaks of enduring trial to perfect you in your faith

James 1:13-18 James warns us not to be enticed away from God.

James 1:19-25 James then calls us to act righteously in conflict by embracing the scriptures and rejecting filthy living.

James 1:26-2:13 James calls us to show compassion to the lowly and show no partiality.

He now highlights the importance of works in faith.

Verse 14 The Sarcastic Question

1. What good is it to say he has faith but has no works?
2. Can that faith save him?
3. James is asking a sarcastic question.
4. How do we define faith and works?
5. Faith = is trusting in God and obeying God.
6. Works = is a life of loving God and loving others.

Verses 15-20 The Direct Answer

1. If a person is naked and destitute in need of daily food
2. And one of you say unto him depart in peace be warmed and filled
3. If you don't give him what he needs
4. If you don't help them what is the profit.
5. It does not benefit the kingdom to just say God bless you.
6. Verse 17 Faith without works is dead alone.
7. To believe verbally is not enough.
8. I believe in the chair.
9. Actions speak louder than words.
10. Is saying I love you enough in a marriage?
11. Verse 18 James encourages a faith that works.
12. Matthew 25:40-46 Separate the Sheep from Goats.
13. Works do not create faith; Faith creates works.
14. Is it the engine or the tires that makes a car move?
15. Is it the brain or the legs that helps me walk?
16. Is it the Holy Spirit or the Church that fulfill the Great Commission?
17. A man may say thou have faith and I have works!
18. The demons believe and tremble.
19. Matthew 7:21-24 Those who hear and obey.
20. Verse 20 Faith without works is dead!

Verses 25-26 The Telling Examples

1. Abel and the Lamb
2. Noah and the Ark
3. Abraham believed and followed (Genesis 22)
4. Rahab believed and acted

Conclusion

1. Can a person experience salvation by a faith without works?
2. Not!
3. Faith saves us but is a faith that works.
4. Works is a direct result of internal faith.

Challenge

1. What kind of faith do you have?
2. Are you a believer that has no unction to work?
3. Are you working so hard that your faith is in your works?
4. Do you believe therefore you cannot help but serve?